

teaches them respecting their enemies is "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!" She anoints the eyes of Christians, and they see a dying world; she gives them wings and they fly to its rescue. She supplies comfort in penitence, courage in weakness, patience in trial, satisfaction in life, and salvation in death. For there is balm for the deepest wound, there is that which will rectify the worst mistakes, and dispel the darkest gloom. There is no deep love which has not in it an element of solemnity. I move through the soul as if it were an inspiration of God, and carries with it something of the awe and shadow of eternity. Where can love be found? Seek her at the cross of Jesus.

North Georgetown, O.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE—WHAT IS IT LEADING TO?

ELIJAH BERKLEY

When we look back to the convocation of that little band that so earnestly and confidently contended for the gospel alone, A. D. 1882, those stalwart defenders of the gospel had no other means of redress than to cut loose from all that was near and dear in relationship to the G. B. church, and call a convention and thereby re-established the gospel alone principles. In that body it was categorically decided to have conference once every five years if need required. Since, we have them annually if I mistake not. If this is gospel we have nothing to say, but we have our doubts. The only convention we find is in Acts of the Apostles 15th chapter and that was to settle the propriety and impropriety of circumcision and that from a gospel view, and where the gospel was involved, nothing more. Paul to Timothy 3: 16, 17, says all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

As our church is properly established we think it inconsistent to have conventions, yet if they must be, why not have them once every five years.

By reading the BRETHREN EVANGELIST we find some one already proposing that bonds should be given by members holding missionary funds alleging if this is not done there is not much use for conference. If our confidence is such that we must pledge one another for our integrity in church work it seems shaky indeed because it has the scent of human power. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, II Thess. 2: 7. If we are once strictly congregational, then we can announce the obsequies to annual meeting. Again, if the amount of money spent for holding conventions with the expense of going too and from them were used for direct church work we could

soon have church and church edifices established from Dan to Beersheba.

Our pastor at McKees, Pa., gave us a few timely hints and it is our duty as councilmen to strike the tocsin wherever danger is apprehended. Those multitudinous councils have the tendency to disruption ever since the first at Nice. I hope to see this in print and then let some one respond and give us light on the subject.

WHAT IS BAPTISM TO THE CHURCH

J. B. WAMPLER

By analogy, what a door is to a house, an entrance into it. Therefore, (1) The initiatory rite thro which a person is brought into the church. (2) "A washing of the body in pure water." Symbolizing a cleansing and purification of the inner intellectual and spiritual man. (3) A burial of the entire body in water and rising thereout. Typifying a burial of the dead body of past sins, and a resurrection out of the watery grave; to walk in newness of life.

And lastly, baptism with the proper pre-requisites, faith and repentance, confession and profession, is one of the conditions of pardon from past sins with a promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul taught that "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

As a result, no minister has a right (biblically) to baptize a person who can not, or who will not witness the proper confession and profession, and all persons who do and are properly baptized are by virtue of the same members of God's church. And as such receive the confirmation by prayer and imposition of hands. It follows then as a conclusion that ministers have no authority to baptize persons to join denominational churches.

Blanco, Pa.

THE CIVILIZATION OF GREED

B. C. MOOMAW

The greedy powers are dividing up China into "spheres of influence," that is to say, each of the powers is assuming control of large slices of the empire, with the purpose of monopolizing its trade. The British policy differs from the others in that it seeks to open the whole empire to the trade of all nations, with no exclusive rights for any of them. This is now known in diplomacy as the "open door" policy, and is the most liberal and humane of any. The peace of the world is gravely threatened by the conflict of these two distinct and opposing policies. The "sphere of influence" method is merely a scheme of gigantic

robbery, and of course the robber, knowing that a larger territory and a greater proportion will swell his profits, plays grab game on all sides, and hesitates not to encroach upon the ground claimed by his neighbor. For this season England and Russia are almost upon the point of war, the latter government constantly exhibiting a disposition to encroach upon the trade territory dominated by the English. What a vast scheme it is to exploit this immense oriental empire, containing one third of the population of the whole world, in the interest of the money makers. All these hundreds of millions of simple minded, industrious, frugal people will soon be working for the money lenders, manufacturers and monopolists of the more powerful western nations, who by forcibly excluding all competition will be enabled to extort enormous profits from these innumerable toilers, and thereby carry on for some ages that peculiar iniquity which has cursed the whole course of history. What a powerful hold the civilization of selfishness has upon the thought and purpose of mankind, and when we consider the countless inferior populations of Asia and Africa, furnishing an almost unlimited opportunity for the gratification of human greed, we have a discouraging sense of the far away and receding vision of universal brotherhood. It is discouraging also in its moral outlook, for the heathen victims of western greed may learn by the experience of the immediate future to look upon our Christian civilization as a den of thieves, rather than a sanctuary of saints and philanthropists. The love of money is truly the root of all evil, and the real civilization will only arrive when money shall be eliminated from the scheme of the world.

Home Circle

TRIALS

EMMA V. HOUSER

On a beautiful summer day, we often see dark clouds curtain the heavens with darkness, until all nature seems to shudder under the threat of coming tempest. Then the thunder cloud is rifted by the blazing thunderbolt, the teeming shower is discharged, the dark clouds pass away, leaving the clear, blue sky lovelier, and the atmosphere more balmy and healthful than before.

So it is with the soul, when the dark clouds of trials and sorrows burden the heart, the spirit of love conquers, the clouds and burdens roll away, leaving the heart meek and contrite, giving Jesus full possession. As the lightning tears to pieces everything it strikes, and the loud peals of thunder shake the earth, so the heart is torn and shaken, but Glory to God, He who takes care of mother earth also heals the wounded heart. What precious promises God has given to